

HOUSE BILL NO. 262

INTRODUCED BY FUCHS, BALYEAT, GALLUS, SHOCKLEY

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THE POLICY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS AND PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT WITH REGARD TO THE MANAGEMENT OF LARGE PREDATORS; ESTABLISHING THAT LARGE PREDATORS MUST BE MANAGED PRIMARILY TO PRESERVE HUNTABLE SPECIES OF LARGE GAME AND TO PROTECT LIVESTOCK, PETS, AND PEOPLE; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Policy for management of large predators -- legislative intent. (1) In managing large predators, the primary goals of the department must be to:

- (a) preserve citizens' opportunities to hunt large game species;
- (b) protect HUMANS, livestock, and pets; and
- (c) preserve and enhance the safety of the public during outdoor recreational and livelihood activities.

(2) As used in this section:

- (a) "large game species" means deer, elk, mountain sheep, moose, antelope, and mountain goats; and
- (b) "large predators" means bears, mountain lions, and wolves.

(3) With regard to large predators, it is the intent of the legislature that the specific provisions of this section concerning the management of large predators will control the general supervisory authority of the department regarding the management of all wildlife.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 87, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Severability. If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

